

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of a personal interview on June 22, 2004.

By the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, claims 6 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 6, 14 and 15 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Final Office Action mailed February 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,916,532 to Streck, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,631 to Sugiyama, et al. It is noted that claims 6 and 15 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection, as follows.

With regard to claim 15, the Examiner has admitted that Streck, et al. fails to explicitly teach a "message signal outputting section for outputting a message signal for displaying a selecting state of the selector subsection on the second television receiver, to transmit the message signal through the radio-transmitter section to the slave terminal, when the selector subsection is switched to send the image signal from the second tuner section to the picture-recording device." See, Office Action, at 3. The Examiner cites Sugiyama, et al. for curing the deficiency in Streck, et al., thereby rendering claim 15 obvious by incorporating "the teaching of Sugiyama into the system of Streck to provide messages from the master terminal . . . to a user at slave terminal

to indicate the absence of an image signal, when recording of the same image signals being received by the slave terminal and furthermore to enable the user to be aware that the image signal is being recorded on another device.” See, Office Action, at page 4.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that neither Streck, et al. nor Sugiyama, et al., nor the combination thereof, discloses or suggests “a message signal outputting section for outputting a message signal for displaying a selecting state of said selector subsection on the second television receiver, to transmit the message signal through said radio-transmitter section to said slave terminal, *the message signal indicating that the image signal is prevented from being transmitted* when the selector subsection is switched to send the image signal from said second tuner section to the picture-recording device,” as claimed in claim 15 of the present invention, as amended. (Emphasis added).

As the Examiner notes, Sugiyama, et al. teaches a technique for controlling an audio video (“AV”) system having a plurality of audio video devices connected through cables. Specifically, Sugiyama, et al. teaches a method and apparatus for automatically terminating power to the AV devices either upon completion of the selected operation or after a predetermined occurrence. Sugiyama, et al., however, fails to disclose or suggest “a message signal outputting section. . . for outputting a message signal *for displaying a selecting state* of said selector subsection on the second television receiver . . . *the message signal indicating that the image signal is prevented from being transmitted* when the selector subsection is switched to send the image signal from said second tuner section to the picture-recording device,” as claimed in claim 15 of the

present invention, as amended. (Emphasis added). In fact, Sugiyama, et al. discloses "auto-all-off," "dubbing-end-all-off" and "timer-all-off" functions, all of which only terminate the power of the TV receiver 1 (the AV center) and /or to VTR 2-7, connected to the TV receiver 1 by the control bus 9, but fail to display a message signal indicating that the image signal is prevented from being transmitted. See, e.g. Sugiyama, et al. at 6:6-25.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 15 is allowable over the cited prior art. As claim 15 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 6 and 14, each of which depends from allowable claim 15, are likewise allowable over the cited prior art.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

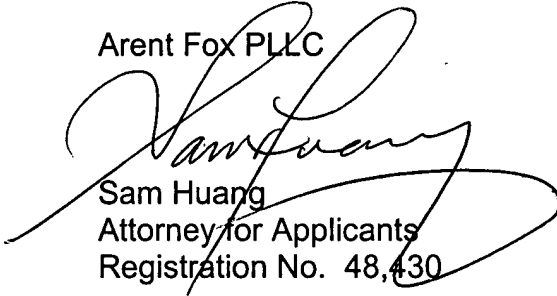
Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107156-00018.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time (three months)